WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*] 49

Extraction of Gold From Cyanide Wastes

*691. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a good percentage of gold can be extracted from cyanide wastes dumped around the mines.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to find out the feasibility of extracting gold from such wastes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Bharat Gold Mines Limited has been able to recover only 92 Kgs. of gold by treating 2,62,425 tonnes of tailings during the year 1987-88 to 1990-91. This works out to an extraction of 0.0000351 % of gold from the treated tailings.

(c) Bharat Gold Mines Limited is already extracting gold from tailings (referred as cyanide waste) by heap leaching process on semi commercial basis.

(d) The heap leaching plant for extraction of gold from tailings was started by Bharat Gold Mines Limited in 1986. The production of gold year-wise is given below :

(in kgs.)

1987-88	*1988-89*	*1989-90*	*1990-91*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
10	17	25	40

49 Agriculture

Support Price for Agricultural Commodities

*696. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations made by the Agricultural Universities with regard to the cost prices of the agricultural commodities are kept in view while fixing the support prices of these commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to consider the recommendations of the Agricultural Universities in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c). The Agricultural Universities and Agro-Economic Research Centres collect data on cost of cultivation/production of crops under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices considers, *inter-alia*, the updated cost of production data while recommending support prices for the season concerned.

50

Visit of Foreign Secretary of Pakistan

*698. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BANDHARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: